

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 36-46 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 47 and 48 have been added to more clearly and positively recite features of the operation section, control section and operation modes of the imaging apparatus of the present invention.

The features of the operation section recited in new claims 47 and 48 are fully supported by the disclosure in Fig. 18 and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. In addition, the "first mode" recited in new claim 47 is fully supported by the disclosure in Fig. 21A-21C and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. Still further, the "second mode" recited in new claim 47 is fully supported by the disclosure in Fig. 24A-24F and the corresponding disclosure in the specification. And the "third mode" recited in new claim 47 is fully supported by the disclosure in Fig. 25A-25C and the corresponding disclosure in the specification.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the addition of new claims 47 and 48 be approved and entered.

According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 47, the imaging apparatus includes an imaging

element and an operation display section, and when an image observed through a microscope is picked up, it is possible to set both a recording range of the image and a preview image range under magnification by electronic zoom, so that focusing can be carried out precisely, and so that the relationship between a recording area and a display area is displayed intuitively.

More specifically, the control section of the imaging apparatus according to new independent claim 47 controls recording and reproducing operations of the recording section and the display magnification of the display section, based on instructions from instructing members of the operation section. As recited in new independent claim 47, the control section selectively controls the recording range and the display magnification in one of three modes, namely: (i) a first mode in which the recording range of the image is fixed, and a display range and the display magnification of the image are variable; (ii) a second mode in which the recording range of the image is variable, and the display range and the display magnification of the image are fixed; and (iii) a third mode in which the recording range of the image is variable and the display range and the display magnification of the image are variable.

According to the claimed present invention, in the first mode, focusing can be carried out at high precision, while the recording range of the image is fixed and the display range and

the display magnification are varied. In the second mode, only a part to be viewed can be recorded as an image. And in the third mode, only a part to be noticed can be recorded as an image and the image of the part to be viewed can be enlarged and displayed at high magnification and focused at high precision.

According to the present invention as recited in new claim 48, moreover, images of a plurality of parts to be viewed can be displayed in a list at low magnification, and a specific part to be noticed can be enlarged and displayed at high magnification and focused at high precision.

By contrast, USP 6,226,392 ("Bacus et al") discloses a system for collecting images via a computer-controlled microscope and a remote computer, as shown in Fig. 5 thereof. According to Bacus et al, a camera controller 124 controls a microscope camera sensor 126, and images are viewed on the monitor 22. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Bacus et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest controlling the acquisition of an image in the manner of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 47 and new claim 48 depending therefrom.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new claims 47 and clearly patentably distinguish over Bacus et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Application No. 09/910,738
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

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